

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 ARA-10 EUR-12
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P R 271630Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6156
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3626

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CG, AO, CS, NI
SUBJ: ZAIRE/ANGOLA: MEDIATION AND VERIFICATION

REF: (A) STATE 183362, (B) BRAZZAVILLE 958

1. WE BELIEVE THAT CAMEROON WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A CIVILIAN VERIFICATION COMMISSION. GURC NOT AVERSE TO SERVING ON MEDIATION COMMITTEES, E.G., CHAD/LIBYA MEDIATION COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR GURC PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY OPERATION SUCH AS SHABA. BELIEVE THAT GURC WOULD BE VERY RELUCTANT TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN A VERIFICATION COMMISSION WHICH REQUIRES THAT ITS MILITARY PERSONNEL BE SUBJECTED TO PROLONGED DUTY AND FOREIGN INFLUENCE.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE PROBABLE CONSIDERATIONS IN DETERMINING GURC RESPONSE:

A. BRAZZAVILLE ACCORD REACHED AT TIME WHEN OAU SENTIMENTS STRONGLY URGE RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS BY AFRICANS.

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B. PARTICIPATION OF CAMEROON AND NIGERIA ON VERIFICATION COMMISSION MAY HELP TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MUTUAL RELATIONS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AFFORDING THEM OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO STABILIZATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

C. PARTICIPATION WILL UNDERSCORE GURC'S COMMITMENT TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN AFRICA BY AFRICANS IN TANDEM WITH DUDAN'S LIKELY PARTICIPATION ON VERIFICATION COMMISSION,

NUMEIRI'S RECENT ACCESSION TO OAU CHAIRMANSHIP AND OBASANJO'S SPEECH AT KHARTOUM.

D. GURC'S DESIRE TO REINFORCE ITS NONALIGNED STATUS AND IMAGE AS RESPONSIBLE MEDIATOR WITH NAM AT PRESENT MEETING IN BELGRADE.

E. GURC'S DESIRE TO ENHANCE PRESTIGE IN AFRICA IN GENERAL AND WITH SPECIFIC "PROGRESSIVE" LEADERS SUCH AS KAUNDA WHO IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CLOSURE OF THE BENGUELA RAILROAD. FYI: SOME PRESS REPORTS INTIMATE THAT CAMEROON'S

PRESTIGE AMONG "PROGRESSIVES" APPEARS TO BE WANING DUE TO GURC'S RELUCTANCE TO TAKE UNAMBIGUOUS POSITION ON CUBA AND ANGOLA. END FYI

F. RECENT DISCUSSIONS BY US WITH ANGOLA MAY BE VIEWED BY GURC AS A STRONG INDICATION OF INCREASING US INVOLVEMENT WHICH COULD PRESUMABLY ENHANCE NETO'S AUTHORITY AND DIMINSH EFFECTIVENESS OF MPLA'S CHIEF ADVERSARY, UNITA. GURC MAY WISH TO BE VIEWED FAVORABLY BY NETO IF HIS REGIME PROMISES TO BE LONG LIVED.

G. GURC FEARS THAT REGIONAL INSTABILITY MAY HAVE CONTAGIOUS EFFECT WHICH COULD BE INIMICAL TO CAMEROON'S OWN INTERNAL SITUATION.

E. WHILE GURC BELIEVES IT IS THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF ANY GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE IT WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO HAVE AN ALL-AFRICAN EFFORT FUNDED EITHER BY THE TWO STATES OR PREFERABLY BY THE OAU ITSELF. AL AFRICAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE IN LINE WITH RECENT OAU PRONOUNCEMENTS AND WOULD HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT; I.E., DEMONSTRATING AFRICAN NATIONS' SELF-RELIANCE, DESIRE TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES FROM DEPENDENCY
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SYNDROME AND RESOLVE TO TRANSFORM RHETORICAL STATEMENTS INTO CONCRETE DEEDS. CAMEROON MAY FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE BEING A PARTICIPANT IN A COMMISSION WHICH HAS SUPPORT OF ALL AFRICAN NATIONS THEREBY MAINTAINING A BALANCED IMAGE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICAN PROBLEM SOLVING.

7. FYI: ANGOLA DELEGATION LED BY ALEXANDRO RODRIQUEZ, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF MPLA BROUGHT UNDISCLOSED MESSAGE TO AHIDJO FROM NETO ON JULY 1. END FYI.

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